



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

# ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939



BY  
W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1939-40.

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. E. BROWNE (*Chairman*).

„ W. E. BLACK.  
„ REV. L. BOUCH.  
„ W. H. BURROWS.  
„ J. COCHRANE.  
„ W. H. COX.  
„ MRS. S. H. DUBBERLEY.  
„ MAJOR E. W. C. FLAVELL, M.C.  
„ H. J. S. HARVEY.  
„ E. F. JEFFERY.  
„ W. E. LORDING.  
„ S. L. MEGGESON.  
„ MRS. M. E. ODELL.  
„ J. E. POND.  
„ A. T. PRICE.  
„ SQD.-LDR. H. STEELE.  
„ T. R. THIRTLE.  
„ A. THORNLEY.  
„ A. W. YATES.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. G. Pomeroy)  
and the Vice-Chairman of the Council (Councillor S. E. Bishop)  
were *ex-officio* Members.

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

## STAFF.

### *Medical Officer of Health—*

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.)  
(Part time.)

### *Senior Sanitary Inspector—*

T. C. F. PAIGE, M.S.I.A.  
(Certificates of the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board and  
The Royal Sanitary Institute.)  
(Whole time.)

### *Sanitary Inspectors—*

(Whole time.)

V. E. BAUGHAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Science Certificate, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate and Smoke Inspector's Certificate.)

B. W. E. MAKEPEACE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.)

S. A. CASH, A.R.San.I.

(Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.)

### *Senior Clerk—*

A. J. BENSON.

(Certificate Royal Institute Public Health and Hygiene.)

### *Clerk—*

R. B. ROWLANDS.

### *Shorthand-Typist—*

MISS M. H. STANBRIDGE.



# Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### 1939

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
259, HIGH STREET,  
UXBRIDGE.

*November, 1940.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1939 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars this Report has been restricted to essential and urgent matters.

I consider that the health of the Uxbridge Urban District is most satisfactory—you will see in the Report that our birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales and our death rate lower.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

#### AREA.

Total area of District	...	...	...	10,237·363 acres.
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#### POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1939 is 45,150, showing an increase of 2,350 upon the figure for 1938.

The estimated total population at the end of the year 1939 was 49,152.

#### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT THE END OF YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE RATE BOOKS.

Total	...	...	12,288.
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### TOTAL BIRTHS.

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Live Legitimate.</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate.</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate.</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Males ...	427	23	11	1	462
Females ...	375	15	14	1	405
Totals	802	38	25	2	867

### BIRTH RATE.

	<i>No.</i>		<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Basis.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	802	Legitimate	17.763	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
	38	Illegitimate	0.842	
	840	Total	18.605	
STILL BIRTHS	25	Legitimate	28.846	Per 1,000 total (i.e., live and still) births.
	2	Illegitimate	2.295	
	27	Total	31.141	
TOTAL BIRTHS	827	Legitimate	18.317	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.
	40	Illegitimate	0.886	
	867	Total	19.203	

The birth rate for the year under review was 19.203 per thousand which may be compared with the figure of 18.551 for the preceding year.

The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 15.0 and 14.8 respectively.

I have to report a decrease in the still birth rate from 36.524 to 31.141 per 1,000 total births.

### DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

Uxbridge has a death rate considerably lower than that of England and Wales and the Great and Smaller Towns.

I have to report a slight increase in the death rate from 9.437 to 10.073 per 1,000 Registrar-General's Estimated Resident Population.

		Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's esti- mated Resident Population	
		1939	1938	1939	1938
Male	...	213	202	5.097	5.098
Female	...	208	172	4.976	4.339
Total	...	421	374	10.073	9.437

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Population.</i>
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	4	0·09
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	2	0·04
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	20	0·44
Measles (all ages) ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	3	0·07
Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..	19	0·42
Heart Disease ... ..	111	2·46
Cancer ... ..	66	1·46
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	9	0·20
Influenza ... ..	7	0·15
Bronchitis ... ..	3	0·07
Kidney Disease ... ..	6	0·13
Appendicitis ... ..	4	0·09

#### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

I have to report that there was one death from Puerperal Sepsis during 1939 compared with two during the previous year. The number of deaths from other Puerperal causes has decreased from three in 1938 to nil in 1939.

	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.</i>
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	1·153
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	—	—
Totals ... ..	1	1·153

#### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000</i>
Total Live Births ...	36	22	58	69·048
Legitimate Live Births	33	22	55	68·579
Illegitimate „ „	3	—	3	78·947

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 42 during 1938 to 58 during the year under review. The rate has increased from 54·902 to 69·048.



# BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	<i>Uxbridge</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census</i>	<i>London Adminis- trative County</i>
	<i>Rates per 1,000 population</i>				
BIRTHS :—					
Live ... ..	18·60	15·0	14·8	15·6	12·3
Still ... ..	0·60	0·59	0·59	0·57	0·44
DEATHS :—					
All causes ... ..	10·07	12·1	12·0	11·2	11·9
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox ... ..	0·00	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ...	0·07	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Diphtheria ... ..	0·09	0·05	0·05	0·04	0·02
Influenza ... ..	0·15	0·21	0·19	0·20	0·18
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Small-pox ... ..	0·00	0·00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1·93	1·89	1·96	1·78	1·53
Diphtheria ... ..	0·89	1·14	1·21	1·16	0·98
Enteric Fever ...	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·04	0·03
Erysipelas ... ..	0·27	0·34	0·40	0·31	0·37
Pneumonia ... ..	0·91	1·02	1·21	0·89	0·99
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</i>				
DEATHS :—					
Under 1 year of age	69·04	50	53	40	48
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	9·52	4·6	6·3	3·0	8·2
MATERNAL					
MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1·19	0·77	} Not available		
Others ... ..	0·00	2·16			
Total ... ..	1·19	2·93			
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)</i>				
MATERNAL					
MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1·15	0·74	} Not available		
Others ... ..	0·00	2·08			
Total ... ..	1·15	2·82			
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	29·99	14·35	17·26	12·99	{ 3·31 14·22



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.  
CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified										Total 1939	Total 1938	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
	Under One Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards	1939	1938	1939	1938
Scarlet Fever ...	—	2	1	11	9	42	7	6	6	2	1	—	87	93	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	3	2	25	3	1	5	—	—	—	40	75	4	3
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	7	2	12	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	4	2	—	26	30	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—
Continued Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	1	—	2	—	4	—	5	9	7	8	2	41	32	20	20
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	See Table Do.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
” (Non-Pulmonary)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2	—	2	—	1	1
15—25	7	11	18	1	1	2
25—35	4	7	11	—	2	2
35—45	1	3	4	1	—	1
45—55	4	—	4	—	—	—
55—65	1	1	2	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	19	22	41	2	4	6

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	1	1
15—25	3	—	3	—	1	1
25—35	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	4	4	—	—	—
45—55	6	—	6	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	3	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	5	17	—	2	2

Ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths, 5 : 19

Of the total of 47 new cases of Tuberculosis added to the register during the year 13 were transferred from other districts.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In April of the year under review your Council discontinued the arrangement with the Hayes and Harlington Council whereby children residing in this District could undergo immunisation treatment at the Clinic at Hayes Cottage Hospital.

A new scheme was put into operation for a free supply of material for Schick Testing and Immunisation to general practi-

tioners undertaking treatment of their patients who reside in the Uxbridge Urban District, fees being payable to the doctors in respect of each case treated.

During the year 7 children received treatment at the Hayes Cottage Hospital, and 34 under your Council's scheme.

Although the number treated by private practitioners was not high in the year under review, considerable interest was shown in the scheme, and in my report for the following year I shall be able to report an increase in the number of children whose parents availed themselves of these facilities.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For particulars of Ambulance Facilities and Charges I would refer you to my Report for 1938.

### HOSPITALS.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

For particulars of Hospitals and Clinics and arrangements for admission and treatment I would refer you to my report for 1938.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Clinical Research Association Ltd., of London, carry out all laboratory examinations for us. The examinations consist mainly of throat swabbing for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli (Diphtheria) sputa for tubercle bacilli and blood tests for Typhoid Fever. In addition, the Association carries out chemical and bacteriological examinations of water and milk.

The work has been done in a satisfactory manner. During the year the following pathological examinations were made:—

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ... ..	1	16	17
Throat Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli (Diphtheria) ... ..	19	198	217
Nose Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli	8	9	17
Ear Swabbings for Klebs-Loeffler Bacilli	—	2	2
Specimens of Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Specimens of Urine for Bacillus Typhosus	—	—	—
Specimens of Faeces for Bacillus Typhosus ... ..	—	—	—
	28	225	253

### CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

I have been unable to discover any particular or unusual cause of sickness or invalidity during the year. I do not think



I can make any comment on any special occupation or environment which has a prejudicial effect on the health of the population. Neither do I think, for the year 1939, can I make any reference to the effect of war-time conditions of living upon the inhabitants of this area.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. INSPECTIONS.

No. of Premises Inspected on Complaint of Nuisance ...	247
No. of Premises Inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases ... ..	131
No. of Premises under periodical Inspection ... ..	239
Total No. of Inspections and Re-Inspections made ...	3,154
Nuisances Discovered and Abated ... ..	219
Informal Notices Served ... ..	175
Statutory Notices Served ... ..	99

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

#### *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.*

Total number of Houses inspected for Housing Defects ...	98
Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ..	227
Number of Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ..	98

#### *Remedy of defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.*

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	24
--	----

#### *Action under Statutory Powers.*

Under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	77
Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
(a) By Owners ... ..	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.

Under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	20
Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	38

### HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review the following action was taken with regard to the Council's Clearance Areas :

#### *Harefield.*

The rehousing of the persons from these areas was completed during the early part of the year under review.



*Uxbridge, Hillingdon West and Ickenham.*

The rehousing of the persons from these areas was completed during the early part of the year under review.

*Uxbridge, Hillingdon West, Hillingdon Central, Hillingdon East.*

In May, 1939, the Council made the necessary statutory resolution declaring certain properties to be clearance areas.

The whole scheme involved the following number of houses :

Uxbridge and Hillingdon West ... ..	121
Hillingdon Central and Hillingdon East ...	30

All schemes for slum clearance were suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of hostilities and no further action can be taken with regard to these properties.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was not found necessary to take action other than informal observation and comment upon certain premises where smoke was being emitted on occasion in excessive quantities.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings:—

- (a) That of the Council which supplies the wards of Uxbridge and Hillingdon West ; and
- (b) That of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, which supplies the remainder of the area.

During the year 6 samples were taken from the mains of the Council's undertaking and two from those of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All proved to be satisfactory.

### MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the District are inspected several times during the course of each year. There are 42 persons registered with this Council as Retail Purveyors and 21 as Producers.

Twenty-six licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Three samples of ordinary and two of pasteurised milk were sent for bacteriological examination which showed the samples to be of a reasonable degree of purity.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and food premises have been the subject of regular inspection and the conditions are generally satisfactory.

During 1939 the following carcasses were inspected at various slaughter-houses in the District :—

Beasts	...	...	...	41
Sheep	...	...	...	289
Calves	...	...	...	42
Pigs	...	...	...	338
Total				710

The following were found to be unfit and were destroyed :—

- 1 Carcase veal with offal.
- 1 Side beef.
- 3 Beasts' heads and tongues.
- 2 Pairs Beasts' lungs.
- 2 Beasts' livers.
- 2 Beasts' spleen.
- 2 Beasts' stomachs.
- 4 Pairs sheeps' lungs.
- 6 Pigs' heads.
- 1 Pair pig's lungs.
- 1 Pig's head, collar and pluck.
- 1 Pig's pluck.

The principal items of other food condemned and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption were :—

Hams, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Fish, etc. ... approx. 1,854 lbs.



